

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected the claims pursuant to 35 USC Section 103 combining two references; namely, Rodriquez, U.S. Patent No. 6,814,656 in view of Klein, U.S. Publication 2004/0173059. The Rodriquez reference was relied upon to teach an abrasive disk at the end of a rod driven by a power drill. The Examiner indicated that Rodriquez did not teach a hollow sleeve or a retention mechanism as set forth in the claims. The Examiner, therefore, appears to have relied upon the Klein reference to teach a so-called retention mechanism. In referencing the retention mechanism the Examiner attached a drawing to the Official Action and identified a "flange near the driving end". There was neither text nor explanation of what the drawing truly depicted. Nonetheless, applicants will assume for purposes of argument that an unnumbered portion of the drawing depicts a flange.

The claims have been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate various features of claim 3. Claim 4 is a new claim incorporating features of original claims 1 and 3. The amended claims set forth an element which is shielded within a counterbore in the sleeve.

Clearly, none of the references show this feature or element in the combination claimed. The purpose of shielding the flange or retention element is to protect the user of the tool from the rotational movement of the flange or retention element as the elongate rod rotates. That is, the element is retained within a counterbore by virtue of being recessed therein. As such, as the rod is rotated the retention element or flange will be shielded from the operator of the tool. This should enhance the safety and utility of the tool.

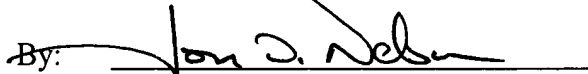
None of the references teach this feature. Thus, applicants respectfully suggest that the claims are patentable. Favorable reconsideration and passage to allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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